

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are amended as shown and Claims 17-30 are withdrawn. The specification is amended in portions to conform to the amended claims. Specifically, the term "panel" in reference to the planar member, or panel elements 100 and 200, is supported by the parent application that was incorporated by reference in its entirety, and would be understood to be inherent within the application as filed even without such incorporation by a person of ordinary skill in the art. No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Therefore, upon entry of this responsive amendment, Claims 1-16 and 31-32 are pending. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,969,784 to *Miyazaki et al.* (hereinafter *Miyazaki(a)*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in its entirety.

Claim 1 is amended to recite "a first color filter disposed at the pixel area, the first color filter having a first edge", "a second color filter disposed adjacent to the first color filter and having a second edge, the first edge and the second edge being overlapped to provide an overlapped area between the first color filter and the second color filter", and "a spacer disposed on the overlapped area between the first color filter and the adjacent second color filter, the spacer having a same material as one of the first color filter and the second color filter" and is supported by the disclosure as filed (Specification page 8 line 23 to page 9 line 3 corresponding to paragraph [0065] of the published application, and Fig. 3, and elsewhere). The present disclosure teaches that a benefit of the claimed overlapped structure of the first embodiment is that the overlapped area of the color

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filters blocks light leaked through between pixel areas so that a light blocking pattern is not needed for this embodiment of the present invention (Specification page 8 line 25 to page 9 line 1, and Fig. 3). For the convenience of the Examiner, this portion of the present specification is reproduced with portions emphasized below:

As shown in FIG. 3, the color filter 130 is disposed at each pixel areas 101. The edge of the color filter 130 is overlapped with an edge of an adjacent color filter 130 at a position between the pixel areas 101. The overlapped area of the color filter 130 blocks light leaked through between the pixel areas 101. Thus, the LCD apparatus 400 does not need a light blocking pattern, for example, such as a black matrix pattern, for blocking the light leaked through between the pixel areas 101. (Specification page 8 line 23 to page 9 line 3, emphasis added).

In contrast, *Miyazaki(a)* cannot teach that adjacent color filters overlap since their disclosure specifically teaches the "color layers 2 which are 2R, 2G, and 2B", "the color layers 2 are positioned at a distance from the spacers 3" (emphasis added) and none of the drawings show an overlapped structure (*Miyazaki(a)* col. 5 lines 43-47 and Fig. 4(a)). To clarify, in the present disclosure the top-down planar view of Fig. 2 shows each pixel area 101 surrounded by a top edge of the color filter 130, where the edges of the adjacent color filters 130 are not shown to overlap in this view. Applicants respectfully assert that the top-down planar view of Fig. 2 does not show the periphery of the bottom edge of the color filters 130, both for clarity in avoiding a cluttered or unreadable drawing, and since this overlapped feature is clearly shown in the side views of Figs. 3-5, and elsewhere.

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Specifically, the position of the pixel electrodes 150 as within the top-edge boundary of the associated color filter 130 (132, 134, 136) is clearly shown in contrast to the more broadly expanded base portion of the color filter when both Figs. 2 and 3 are considered.

Claim 2 is amended to recite the first color filter and to correct a typographical error. Since not all of the claimed elements are taught in *Miyazaki(a)*, Applicants respectfully assert the reference does not anticipate Claim 1. Further, since Claims 2, 31 and 32 depend from Claim 1, Applicants assert these dependent claims are also not anticipated by *Miyazaki(a)*. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over *Miyazaki(a)* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,757,451 to *Miyazaki et al.* (hereinafter *Miyazaki(b)*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in its entirety.

Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 are amended to correct a typographical error. As discussed in reference to Claim 1 above, *Miyazaki(a)* does not teach "a spacer disposed on the overlapped area between the first color filter and the adjacent second color filter, the spacer having a same material as one of the first color filter and the second color filter" and *Miyazaki(b)* does not remedy this deficiency. Since not all of the claimed elements are taught by *Miyazaki(a)* and *Miyazaki(b)*, even if combined as suggested, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is distinguished over the cited references, and that dependent Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 are also distinguished at least based on their dependence from Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

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Claims 4, 6, 8, 10-11, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over *Miyazaki(a)* in view of *Miyazaki(b)* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,140,988 to *Nobuaki Yamada* (hereinafter *Yamada*).

As discussed in reference to Claim 3 above, *Miyazaki(a)* and *Miyazaki(b)* do not teach "a spacer disposed on the overlapped area between the first color filter and the adjacent second color filter, the spacer having a same material as one of the first color filter and the second color filter" and *Yamada* does not remedy this deficiency. Since not all of the claimed elements are taught by *Miyazaki(a)* and *Miyazaki(b)* and *Yamada*, even if combined as suggested, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is distinguished over the cited references, and that dependent Claims 4, 6, 8, 10-11, 13 and 15 are also distinguished at least based upon their dependence from Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 4, 6, 8, 10-11, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over *Miyazaki(a)* in view of *Miyazaki(b)* in view of *Yamada* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,801,797 to *Iida et al.* (hereinafter *Iida*).

As discussed in reference to Claim 4 above, *Miyazaki(a)* and *Miyazaki(b)* and *Yamada* do not teach "a spacer disposed on the overlapped area between the first color filter and the adjacent second color filter, the spacer having a same material as one of the first color filter and the second color filter" and *Iida* does not remedy this deficiency. Since not all of the claimed elements are taught by *Miyazaki(a)* and *Miyazaki(b)* and *Yamada* and *Iida*, even if combined as suggested, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is distinguished over the cited references, and that dependent Claims 12, 14, and

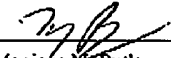
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16 are distinguished at least based on their dependence from Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 12, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (949) 752-7040 is both welcomed and encouraged.

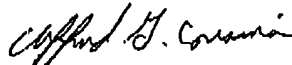
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